

17 July 69

Emperor Vitellius and his entourage entered Rome in a rather unimpressive display of triumph, but the transition to the new regime was generally smooth and peaceful. There were few executions and arrests.

Vitellius confined many of Otto's officials in their posts and even forgave Otto's brother SALVIUS TITIANUS, who

who had played a leading role in the previous regime. His feeling of security was reinforced by the arrival of couriers who reported the allegiance of the eastern armies. The legions which fought for Octavian at Cremona had already been sent back to their old postings, or to new ones in distant provinces. Vitellius disbanded the existing Praetorian Guard & urban cohorts stationed in Rome.

July 69 AD

Vespasian was proclaimed  
emperor at Alexandria

Vespasian was a new kind of emperor: middle-class rather than Patrician. He gave the empire a period of stable and efficient government. His tolerance & humor won him friends and his conscientious attention to the welfare of home and the provinces set the empire on a new and firm footing.

July 69

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Vespasian was proclaimed emperor  
by the eastern legions and a few  
months later departed for Alexandria.  
leaving the completion of the Jewish War  
to his son Titus

Domitian had been in Rome during the last days of Vitellius & had gone into hiding. When the Flavians took control, he & Mucianus governed jointly in Vespasian's name, appointing prefects, governors and Cereals.

His potency was so great that once Vespasian wrote 'I thank you, my son, for permitting me to hold office and that you have not yet dethroned me! It was Mucianus who

ordered the execution of Vitellius's son and his  
notorious freedman ASIATICUS. It was  
Mucianus too, who sent forces north to  
suppress the revolt of the native chieftain  
JULIUS CIVILIS and restore order along  
the Rhine frontier.

1 July 69

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Vespasian's accession to the  
throne,



middle of July 69

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Around middle of July news reached him that the army of the eastern provinces had set up a rival emperor Titus Flavius Vespasianus, a distinguished general who commanded widespread support. Vespasian was to hold Egypt while his colleague MUCIANUS, governor of Syria, led an invasion of Italy

The emperor Vitellius had the reputation of ne'er-do-well and was notorious for his gluttony. One banquet involved no fewer than 2000 fish and 7000 birds.

During his few months at Rome, he spent no less than 900 million Sesterces.

Summer 69

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Titus become Caesar to Vespasian  
his father.

mid August 69

Danube begins decline for Vespasian  
at POETOV 10.

Antonius Pannius is entrusted with  
invasion of Italy. He commanded  
the 6th legion in Pannonia, and  
also Cornelius FUSCUS, imperial procurator  
in Aegyptus, declared for Vespasian &  
led the Danube legions in rapid  
descent on Italy

They had 5 legions (30,000 men  $\pm$ ) - only half  
of what Vitellius had

24 Oct 69

Prinias led his troops south before reinforcements could come.

The second battle of CREMONA began 24 Oct and ended next day in complete victory for the Flavians. They pursued the fleeing Vitellians to Cremona, and captured both the camp and the city. For 4 days the Flavian troops burned, killed and looted.

Vellius made a half-hearted attempt to hold the APPENINE passes against the Flavian advance, but the army he sent, went over to the Flavians without a fight at Narnia on 17 Dec 69

Oct 69

2nd Battle of Cremona.



17 Dec 69

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When Vitellius learned of his army  
going over to the Flavians, he tried to  
abdicate but his supporters forced him  
to return to the imperial palace

17 Dec 69

Meanwhile Vespasian's elder brother  
TITUS FLAVIUS SABINUS with a few  
friends attempted to act on VITELLIUS'S  
alleged abdication and seize control of the  
city. His party was attacked by  
Vitellius's soldiers and had to take  
refuge on the Capitol. (18 Dec 69)  
The next day, the whole  
place went up in flames, including

the venerable Temple of Jupiter Optimus  
Maximus. Flavius Sabinus and his  
supporters were captured, hauled before  
Vitellius and killed

69AD  $\Rightarrow$  82AD

The Colosseum was built. The official name was the Flavian Amphitheater

69 AD

(Jan). The begins on the Rhine  
proclaim VITELLIVS. The  
begins at Rome meeting, murder  
Salva and proclaiming M. Salvius  
Otho. The troops of Vitellius  
invade Italy (April); defeat and  
death of Otho. Aulus Vitellius  
emperor. (July) The troops  
at Alexandria proclaim

Vespaean, Defeat and death  
of Vitellius (Dec.)

AD 69-79

The total annual revenue of the state under VES PASIAN was at most 1,500,000,000 sesterces (\$150,000,000) - less than  $\frac{1}{5}$  th of the budget of New York City (1943)

TITUS FLAVIUS VESPASIANUS 9-79 AD